

NEWS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS*

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For Immediate Release

May 5, 2004

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on May 4, 2004, **VENISE TORRES** age 29, of Bronx, New York, **CHRISTOPHER COLON**, age 20, of Bronx, New York, and **ESTELLE TORRES** age 49, of Belleville, Illinois, were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois in a one (1) count indictment charging them with Conspiracy to Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute approximately 12,000 tablets of MDMA, “commonly known as Ecstasy,” a controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846, and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2. The violation took place from July of 2003 and continued until April 7, 2004, in St. Clair County, Illinois.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The offense carries with it a penalty of up to 20 years imprisonment, a \$4,000,000.00 (four million dollar) fine, and up to 5 years of supervised release.

Information for the Indictment was obtained in an investigation conducted by the United States Postal Inspection Service. The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Ranley R. Killian.